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and/or of (R) - or (S) -3, 3, 3-trifluoro-2-hydroxy-2-methylpropionamide of the formula

- comprising the conversion of propionamide of the formula

into the compounds of the formulae I, II, VII or VIII using a polypeptide having amidohydrolase activity capable of hydrolysing (R)-3, 3, 3-tri fluro-2-hydroxy-2-methylpropionamide of the formula

25. (New) The process of claim 22 utilizing the polypeptide of claim 5.-